ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image forming apparatus forms an image on an image forming medium and can form a specific hidden pattern for specifying a body of an apparatus at a predetermined position of the medium. A hidden pattern addition mechanism uses both a software control signal which is generated by software and a hardware control signal which is generated by hardware and must be used for forming the image on the medium as control signals for adding the specific hidden pattern when the specific hidden pattern is added to a specific position of the medium to form the image.

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